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County's 12 months swimmers

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

From left, Joleen Thomas, Kelly Winder, Cheryl Bathe, and Katie Cox take an icy plunge at Horseshoe Lake. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Joleen Thomas and Amanda Austin started swimming together 16 years ago.

"I had a couple of babies and I was looking for something to do in the summertime that was easy in a postpartum body. I saw this woman had a Waterloo triathlon coat on and asked her at the Early Years Centre if she would swim with me," says Thomas. "That was 16 years ago."

"We started swimming all year during [the COVID-19 pandemic] as a way to stay connected. We would swim every morning in the summertime and we would swim into the fall," says Thomas. "One of our girlfriends was moving to the Netherlands. We wanted a way to stay connected with her and a way to stay connected during the pandemic."

Their friend, Anje Hilkers, continues to swim throughout the winter in the Netherlands.

"So our summer swimming group changed to the 12 Months Swim Group."

"Throughout the year, I'd say we have a good core of about 12," says Thomas. "Some days there's 2 that come, some days there's 20."

"It was before Wim Hof. It was before the whole cold plunge movement," says Thomas. "This is such a great thing for us all to do together during the pandemic and stay connected during the lockdowns."

"Swimming outside in the cold gave us a chance to stay together and kept the camaraderie. It was easier to swim in the cold than go for a walk with six people," says Thomas. "And we liked the challenge. Everyone swims in the cold for a different reason."

"My resistance to the cold is so much greater," says Thomas. "Knowing you can be cold and you're gonna warm up later. It's a pretty powerful thing. Swimming for me, brain fog, that's a huge thing. Once I go in, there's so much clarity afterwards and you're full of energy."

"If I'm feeling run down, or I'm about to get sick, I notice my capacity for the cold is diminished quite a bit. It's not enjoyable. Learning to not push through that and listen is really helpful."

"Everyone that does this is smiling when they start and smiling when they leave."

The age range of swimmers range from 30s to 70 plus, says Thomas.

"When I first started it, I felt really responsible for everybody," says Thomas. "I took a cold water immersion course so that I felt safe about choosing a location and appreciating what was happening physiologically when we are going in the water and some of the risks that could happen and how to mitigate those."

see TAKING page 2

12 Months swimmer Julia Dowhaluk embraces the brisk waters at her own pace at Horseshoe Lake. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Taking a winter dip

from page 1

"Most people think it is admirable," says Thomas. "A lot of people think it's bananas, absolutely bonkers. I think secretly, people are very curious and they really want to and it's been so fascinating watching our group grow."

The 12 Months Swimmers group on Facebook has been quickly growing.

"There's been more interest this year," says Thomas. "Probably because the weather has been a little bit more favourable, these warmer days," says Thomas. "It doesn't matter, the water is still temperature when it had the ice on it."

"We've had the police called on us. We were swimming in the river in Minden," says Thomas.

Although there is a current, Thomas is confident in the safety precautions and equipment used to ensure the swimmer's safety."

"Research suggests that 11 minutes is the perfect number per week," says Thomas. "In the first couple of years, you get this champagne skin afterwards which is like this buzz as soon as you get out of the water and your blood goes to your extremities again."

"We're not in there long enough to get hypothermia," assures Thomas. "You'd have to be in there a long time."

Besides dangerous conditions such as lightning storms, the 12 Months Swimmers group will swim rain or shine.

"We always dream of that perfect big, chunky, snowflake day. Other than lightning, there's no reason not to go."

Kelly Winder started swimming with the group on June 31, 2022.

"I saw some people that were in the group that were on my friends list, I would see them post on Facebook that they did a plunge or even doing a summer swim," says Winder, "I just love swimming."

"I am really adapted to it. I stay in 10 plus minutes at a time. It's not a competition, but I just think I am still learning more about it too," says Winder. "Trying to figure out what's safe. Obviously, don't put yourself into hypothermia."

While the group swims in lakes throughout Haliburton County, the swimming group regularly meets at Horseshoe Lake for their winter plunges.

"It is all for fun and exercise," says Winder. "This past December, we had 21 people out, which is our record number."

Recently, the group organized a moonlight swim, under the full moon.

"I just love it cause it's so relaxing," says Winder. "It's so good for stress. It's helped immensely. With the personal stuff I am going through, it's helped immensely. That and church."

"It's becoming so popular," explains Winder." "There is a Kingston group that has set a record for most people laughing in the water for three minutes. They do this funny dress up stuff. Athletes are doing it all the time. It's good for recovery after sports."

Winder describes it as a wonderful, natural way to get a headrush.

"Come join us," says Thomas. "Obviously, make sure it's okay with your doctor. Otherwise, take it slow, wear footwear."

" It doesn't matter if you›re doing summersaults out there or swimming lengths, or standing knee deep, you're still taking the plunge," says Thomas.

"No judgement till you try it."

The 12 Months Swimmers are putting on a Jump in the Lake event on May 4 at 2 p.m. Donations for the event are accepted here: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/central-food-network/p2p/jump24/

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Measles becomes a concern provincially, locally

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Public health officials are keeping a watchful eye for measles in Ontario.

And that means a wariness for the local region as well.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) Health Unit's primary focus is the most vulnerable among us when it comes to measles cases reported in Ontario.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, medical officer of the local health unit, told the health unit's board when it met March 21 that those people who are most vulnerable are pregnant women and under-vaccinated children.

"Infection can be more serious for them and we do see hospital admissions associated with measles," she said.

According to Public Health Ontario, measles is a serious respiratory infection that is highly contagious. Individuals with measles spread the virus by coughing or sneezing into the air. It can also be transmitted by touching your eyes, nose, or mouth after touching an infected surface.

Symptoms of measles include fever, a red blotchy rash, red watery eyes, and cough.

Data as of March 13, indicates that there have been eight laboratory-confirmed cases of measles reported in Ontario.

In 2023, there were seven laboratory-confirmed cases of measles reported in Ontario.

Due to an increase in measles activity globally, Ontario has begun to see more cases of measles.

North America's last large measles outbreak happened when Quebec reported more than 700 cases in 2011. About 86 hospital admissions were associated with that outbreak.

"We know that this could happen so we just want to be prepared," she said.

For people who aren't certain about their vaccination status against measles, Bocking said most people born in 1970 are considered to be immune because of the likelihood they have been exposed to the virus at some point in their life already.

People born after 1970 were likely vaccinated at 12 months of age for their first dose and again between four and six years old.

If you're convinced you didn't have measles, the recommendation is that you get a dose of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine.

"Post-1970 birth, most people should have had two doses of MMR vaccine as part of their immunizations," Bocking said. "If you've only had one, we recommend that you have a second one."

A new weekly epidemiology report has been launched that informs public health officials of infection numbers throughout the province. Health Canada also has resources and the HKPR unit has an updated measles portal on its website.

Locally, there's also a dedicated telephone line people can call and ask questions about measles.

In general, the public health officials are more worried about infants, young children, and pregnant women.

"We don't see measles tend to explode in the older population," she said. "We're focusing on kids in day cares, schools, where we would see the greatest threat.

AH renews waste disposal contract

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands extended its attendant and maintenance contract for its waste disposal sites.

Watson General Contracting has provided services for site attendant and site maintenance services for township waste disposal sites for many years. The current agreement for services expired at the end of this month.

The hourly rate for site attendant and maintenance services proposed by Watson General Contracting is $24.64 per hour, plus applicable taxes from April 1 until March 31, 2025. That's an increase of $1.56 per hour, plus taxes, or 6.76 per cent over last year.

The following year until March 31, 2026, will be of the same rate but adjusted according to the consumer price index (CPI).

The CPI, a point of inflation, refers to the changes in prices experienced by consumers. CPI adjustments are proposed to be capped and be not less than two per cent and no greater than six per cent.

The new agreement includes options for three one-year renewals to March 31, 2029.

According to a report to township council prepared by Melissa Murray, the environmental manager, the contractor explained to staff several factors contributing to the increase in the hourly rate for services.

"The largest contributor being increases in the minimum wage, with an increase of $1.05 ($15.50 to $16.55) on Oct. 1, 2023," she said in her report.

Other contributing factors to the increased cost for services included related increases to Workplace Safety Insurance Board fees, Canadian Pension Plan contributions, employment insurance, and costs for training.

For renewal periods from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029, the hourly rate would be established using the hourly rate for site attendant and maintenance services on March 31, plus applicable taxes and CPI increase.

> "It is recommended by staff that these services continue to be utilized as this service provides labour for site work that cannot be regularly completed by township staff,
>
> — MELISSA MURRAY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

Watson General Contracting provides specialized labour to complete material handling and maintenance work, according to the report.

"It is recommended by staff that these services continue to be utilized as this service provides labour for site work that cannot be regularly completed by township staff," Murray wrote.

With scale operation beginning in 2024, there are requirements for additional staffing at the Maple Lake Waste Disposal Site. Staff have budgeted for an additional 600 hours to allow for a dedicated attendant for scale operations throughout the year.

The total cost for site attendant and maintenance services included in the 2024 budget is $277,000. This total includes $13,900 for the proposed hourly rate change and $14,600 for attendant services for the Maple Lake waste disposal site

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EASTER HOLIDAY HOURS – WASTE DISPOSAL SITES
All waste disposal sites will be open on Easter Monday, April 1, 2024 and will operate on Sunday hours. All other days, the sites will operate under regular winter hours.

FIRE SEASON
Fire Season starts April 1 and ends October 31 in any given year. There is no daytime burning permitted. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Daytime Burning).

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON
Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **April 11** – Regular Council Meeting
- **April 25** – Regular Council Meeting
- **May 9** – Regular Council Meeting
- **May 30** – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAY, MARCH 29 & MONDAY, APRIL 1
The Township of Minden Hills Municipal Office will be closed on Friday, March 29 (Good Friday) and on Monday, April 1, 2024 (Easter Monday).The office will reopen on Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m.

MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE
- This is the last week to see the 1st Annual Student Art Exhibit from Archie Stouffer Elementary School with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. The exhibit is on display until March 30. The Gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. It is closed on Good Friday (March 29). Admission is by donation.
- The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14. Upcoming classes will be held on April 2, 9 and 16 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road. All materials are supplied.
- Connection and Response, an exhibit by artist Bruce Cull will be on display from April 4 – June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. For more info: https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull

WINTER PARKING
From November 1 to April 30, 2024 overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT
Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

CALL FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
The Township of Minden Hills is looking for two volunteers to participate as members on the Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee for the remaining (2023-2026) term of Council.
If you, or someone you know, are interested in participating on the above committee, please download and submit a completed Advisory Committee Application Form visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom for full details.

Application deadline is Wednesday April 3, 2024 by 12:00 noon. For an Application Form or for more information, please contact Vicki Bull at vbull@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 515 or Lisa Fitton at lfitton@mindenhills.ca, 705-286-1260 ext. 527.

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AH saves on waste processing contract

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands could be on the path toward paying just about half what it currently costs for disposal of construction and demolition waste.

The company that hauls and processes construction and demolition waste for nearby Dysart has agreed to take on Algonquin Highlands.

The term of the agreement would be from Jan. 1, 2024, to Dec. 31, 2028.

Fees for service would be a hauling cost of $800 per walking floor trailer, plus $60 per metric tonne for processing. As per current practice, the township would be responsible for loading materials into the trailers.

Construction and Demolition waste collected at the Maple Lake and Dorset waste disposal sites (WDS) is hauled and processed by private contractors. The management of these materials off-site allows for some materials to be diverted from landfills.

According to a report to township council by Melissa Murray, the environmental services manager, private contractors have resources for waste diversion that are not available to the municipality.

While some construction and demolition waste is size-reduced by way of chipping and landfilled at the Maple Lake WDS, most waste has been hauled for offsite processing.

"All waste from the Dorset Transfer Station is hauled and processed off-site," Murray said.

> "These terms would reduce hauling and processing costs to the township by approximately 40 per cent
>
> — MELISSA MURRAY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER OF AH"

The Municipality of Dysart et al issued a request for tender for construction and demolition waste hauling and processing late last year. The request yielded four proposals.

The lowest bid was from York1 Rosewarne Transfer Ltd. and was about 40 per cent less than the next lowest bid.

Murray told council during its March 21 meeting that York1 is agreeable to extending the terms of their agreement with Dysart to Algonquin Highlands.

"These terms would reduce hauling and processing costs to the township by approximately 40 per cent," she said. "Reduced costs for hauling and processing of construction and demolition waste would help to offset material handling costs and reduce or eliminate taxation support for this service."

Dorset Centre work 'going really well,' says AH official

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Outside work at the Dorset Recreation Centre is expected to begin next month.

The facility was closed in 2022 and remediation work began to address mould and moisture issues inside the structure.

Mould has been completely removed from the centre's upstairs in October and there's been improvements to washroom accessibility

Staff decided a ventilation system was the best option for the building as opposed to a full heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC). Ensuring good ventilation will prevent future mould growth.

Adam Thorn, the municipality's public works manager, said painting and drywalling is progressing at the recreation facility. The flooring and some of the trim has been installed. Doors have also been installed at the renovated recreation centre.

He said excavation outside of the building will begin in April. That's for footings for the new entrance.

"So far things are going really well," he said. "There hasn't been any set-back yet. It's been business as usual going forward."

Angie Bird, the municipality's CAO, said there's been discussion about a fireplace at the facility. Council has supported the idea and staff investigated the possibility of having it located upstairs in the recreation centre.

"Unfortunately, upstairs doesn't seem feasible," Bird said. "However, we have found a great location downstairs."

She said the area at the bottom of the stairs will be a meeting-type space that will be comfortably furnished.

"Kind of like a reception area," Mayor Liz Danielsen said.

"There's a location there that staff have identified that would be a good space for a fireplace," Bird said.

"That's kind of disappointing that it can't be upstairs," Danielsen said. "But I'm glad that we can still incorporate it. And if we're going to set up a nice sitting area down at the base of the stairs, it sounds great."

Bird said the fireplace at that downstairs site would complement the library that is hoped to open there.

"There's potential that people will sort of congregate in that area and maybe sit and read a book," Bird said.

"In a lovely environment," Danielsen said.

Thorn said frost isn't as deep in the ground as it has been in previous winters. And he hopes that bodes well for when the contractor begins exterior work on the building.

"If the weather changes in the next week and we get a dumping of snow, that could delay things," he said. "Outside of those unknowns, so far things are going well."

There are still too many factors in a project of that magnitude to nail down a precise opening date, he said.

"I would hate to give a hard, fast date and then have to come back and say, Sorry we're going to be another month," Thorn said. "When it gets closer we'll have something more exact."

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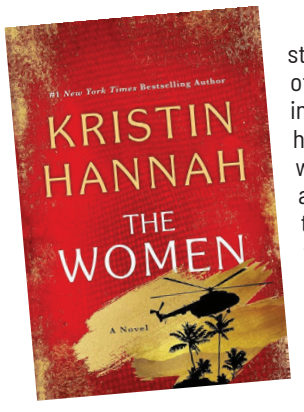
HCPL's Book of the Week



1965. Frances "Frankie" McGrath, a sheltered nursing student, has grown up in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California. Inspired by her brother's service in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. Amidst the chaos and camaraderie, Frankie witnesses the resilience and sacrifices of both soldiers and nurses. In war, she meets – and becomes one of – the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. However, the real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women by Kristin Hannah is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library

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Two-year CCAA winning streak for Dobson and team

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**
Times Staff

Jacob Dobson has once again skipped the Humber men's curling team to victory at the college level.

For the second year in a row, Dobson and his team are the reigning gold medalists of the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association national curling championship.

It came down to Dobson, the team captain's, last shot. It had to be a double takeout to secure first place.

"Honestly, most of that shot is a complete blur. Overall, the game was very back-and-forth," said the Haliburton local. "Mohawk started the game with Hammer. We did a great job forcing them in the first end. We were able to score two in the third end then took back-to-back steals of one going into the mid-game break."

Then, Mohawk College's team fought to tie the game.

"The last end didn't get set up exactly how we wanted it. We knew I would likely have some sort of hit or runback, or a draw to the button for the win. That's exactly what happened," Dobson said.

This year's tournament was in Fredericton, New Brunswick from Mar. 12 to 16.

The team focused on each game in front of them rather than adding pressure to win the title again.

With a difficult start to their first game of the tournament and giving up a steal of 5, they pulled off a win "and didn't look back."

The Humber men won all their games but one.

"Overall, the tournament was great. Our only loss was to Mohawk in another game that came down to the last shot," Dobson said.

He said Concordia College is the only other school to have won a back-to-back first place curling title in the men's division.

"Most of our team is returning next year. We have our eyes on being the first CCAA team to win three championships in a row.

Dobson started his curling career on home ice in Haliburton with the Youth Curling Program.

Jacob Dobson, skip for the Humber College men's team, threw the winning rock to secure his team the first-place title at the CCAA national curling championships in New Brunswick on March 16. /Photo submitted

"The group of coaches that ran that program helped me fall in love with curling. It was amazing to see familiar names from Haliburton social media, sending texts and emails, and following on the live streams," he said.

Winning the national college title means Dobson's team will travel to Calgary in September for the 2024 Pointsbet Invitational.

"This event has the top teams in Canada competing for $350,000," he said. "It's still only just starting to kick in."

Dobson is in his third year of justice studies and police foundations at the University of Guelph-Humber.

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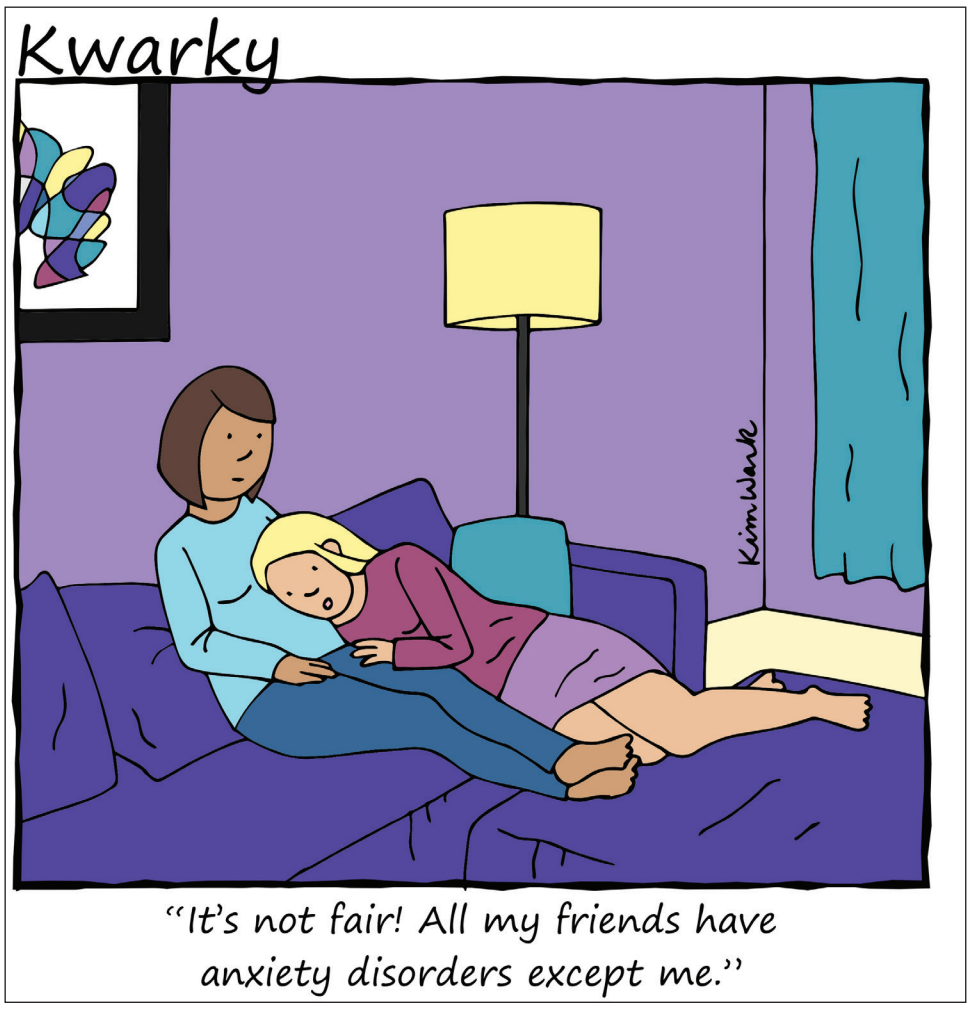


Deers, boars, bears, oh my

ON SATURDAY March 23, I had the pleasure to attend the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association's (HHOA) wild game dinner.

A sold-out event, the Haliburton Legion was packed with people who are passionate about supporting the HHOA's efforts of the sustainable management of Haliburton County's natural resources.

The HHOA has raised and stocked more than 625,000 fish since 1998. In addition to the fish hatchery, HHOA conducts walleye counts, lake access cleanup, emergency deer feeding, programming for youth, and much more.

The wild game dinner offered a buffet-style dinner with a plethora of meat options including bear, boar, moose, venison, buffalo, elk, arctic char, and rainbow trout. Beef and ham were also served, but I thought that these offerings were rather taboo for a 'wild game' affair.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

I was hoping for a squirrel or some beaver, but I guess I'll have to hunt for some myself.

I have never eaten any wild game before. No one in my close family is a hunter. While my father enjoys fishing, he never eats the fish he catches.

I was immensely excited for the opportunity to enjoy wild game at this event. Perhaps it is a primal urge to harvest food from the environment around you, or perhaps I just love to eat.

In all honesty, I was afraid of eating wild game, namely bear. Parasites freak me out, such as the roundworm *Trichinella spiralis* which causes Trichinosis and is regularly found in bear meat.

From 2013 to 2022, only 47 cases of Trichinosis occurred in Ontario. The odds seemed to be in my favour.

Upon further research, to cook bear properly, you must cook it at 375F for 20 - 25 minutes per pound. A cooking temp and time that is very similar to that of pork.

Unlike eating bear, I have no qualms with cooking and eating pork. However, there are still risks involved with eating a pork chop, burger, or steak. In our modern society, it seems that industrialized agricultural practices have swayed what constitutes 'correct' meat for our diets and removed our reliance on harvesting from the land.

It was only recently that I took the hunter education course. I have not had the opportunity to hunt anything yet. Despite this fact, I felt immensely welcomed at the wild game dinner. When people would ask me what I like to hunt, I sheepishly told them I am a hunting virgin, but I fish regularly. How embarrassing.

In addition to my hunting virginity, I have not taken the firearms safety course, restricting my hunting options to that of bows, crossbows, and slingshots.

Despite having no experience with guns or hunting, people happily shared their stories with me, rhyming off names of guns in their collections and hunting stories. Despite zero experience with hunting or guns, I could see that the people that I spoke with were passionate about hunting, fishing, and harvesting from the land in a controlled manner. Some folks love shooting guns. I look forward to attending the wild game dinner next year, if able.

Until then, the moles in my yard better watch out, there's a new hunter in town.

Nautical names

THIS YEAR, I will be fishing and hunting from a new boat bought expressly for the purpose. Like all new boat owners, I can hardly wait for the open water season to begin.

Before that happens, however, I'll be busy adding a few modifications to my vessel. Little things, like better seats, and mounts for an electric motor and electronics. Also, I will have to add a live well pump and an anchor system.

And while these things are critical, the most interesting part of all is settling on a suitable name for my watercraft. One that I can call it when I start telling fishing stories to my grandkids – which will eliminate 90 percent of the words used in that boat.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Admittedly, naming boats is not as important as it used to be. But there was a time when everyone did it. I'm guessing this was because it provided the only socially acceptable excuse for the Queen to cut loose and break a bottle.

The last boat I named was a wooden dory I made called Hope. I named her that because I had heard somewhere that hope floats. My boat did the same – until one day it didn't. Then I renamed it Hopeless.

The problem with naming a boat is that there are too many names that are no longer in the running. The names Titanic, Lusitania and the S.S. Minnow immediately come to mind. Likewise, I cannot name my boat Adolf, Benito, Vladimir, or even call it the Trump Card. There is too much baggage associated with each of those names.

Other names cannot be used because they just don't bode well. Though I am the farthest thing from being superstitious, I would never call my boat Leaky, Cap Size, or Where's the Bail Bucket? as none of these monikers would instill confidence in anyone that I plan on taking out.

On the other hand, a name like Catch and Release might be good, not because I necessarily practice it, but because it would stop people from asking why I continually return to the launch with no fish. I am also seriously considering calling it Chips because I would love just once to have another boat pull up beside me and yell out, "Chips ahoy!"

Regardless of the name chosen, I will need to remember to avoid a few common pitfalls. The spelling of a name, for instance, is never more important than when painting it on the side of a boat. If you have a boat with a misspelled name, one day you will almost certainly find yourself on a lake where an editors' convention is underway.

The point is naming a boat is not as simple as it appears.

I am leaning towards settling on something a little more conversational that will perhaps encourage other anglers not to follow me to my best fishing spots. I'm thinking something like Chub Chaser or Steve Galea's Boat.

Perhaps the best thing to do is wait a bit and name my boat after I have taken a few fishing trips in it. This might provide all the inspiration I need, maybe even give me a sense of its character.

That sounds like a better plan, I guess.

Besides, it really doesn't matter what you call your boat. All the truly matters is that you don't call your trailer Jack Knife.

InOtherWords

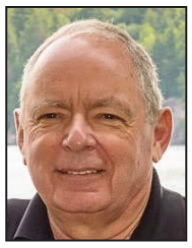
Columns and Letters to the Editor

Politics and evangelicals

WHAT USED to be a source of pride for me has become a source of shame.

My father's family had evangelical roots since coming to North America almost 400 years ago. They were deep into mainline Protestant denominations, with many over the passing decades joining the growing, and more distinct, evangelical movement.

The first Poling arrived in 1643 from Sussex, England during that country's religious persecutions. It was a time when thousands sailed for New England because they refused to conform to brutal English religious laws.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

He and others became followers of Lady Deborah Moody, a widowed aristocrat and one of those thousands of religious immigrants to America. She was an Anabaptist – a person opposed to infant baptism.

Lady Moody's religious beliefs didn't fit well in New England. She couldn't get along with the Pilgrims, Quakers and other sects and accepted an offer of religious freedom from the Dutch, who owned New York at the time. They offered her a large chunk of land in what is now Brooklyn and she founded a community named Gravesend.

The Polings followed her to Gravesend, starting family branches that produced many dozens of Protestant ministers across the United States. One branch produced seven unbroken generations of Protestant ministers.

My dad's distant cousin, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, was an evangelical minister who became an advisor to U.S. President Harry Truman. Daniel's son, Clark, was a Reformed Church of America pastor and one of the four Army chaplains who drowned in the Atlantic when the troop ship *SS Dorchester*, bringing troops to the war in Europe, was torpedoed by a German submarine.

Clark Poling and three other chaplains gave their lifejackets to soldiers about to drown, then linked arms and sang a hymn while the *SS Dorchester* sank.

My branch of the family was quite different. It had zero religious connections until my grandfather met my grandmother. However, it was always nice to know that other Polings in the evangelical movement were doing good work to help others.

Today's evangelicals in the U.S. now have me ashamed. Polls show that more than one-half of white evangelicals support Donald Trump's bid to become president again. Eight of 10 supported him when he was elected president in 2016.

Here's a man who doesn't go to church, brags about grabbing women's genitals, frequents prostitutes and is facing 91 state and federal criminal charges. Yet he is seen by many evangelicals as some kind of messiah.

Many evangelicals favor Trump because he promotes himself as someone who has their back in a cultural war they say is ruining the U.S.. They are seeing Christianity decline in the U.S. and with it the conservative beliefs and policies they say strengthen the country and prevent moral decay.

Trump himself is a non-believer and immoral, but he supports evangelicals in their fight to conserve the America they want.

His appointment of right-wing Supreme Court justices who overturned constitutional protections for abortion is an example. The evangelicals also like his views of lowering taxes, deregulating government and keeping undocumented immigrants out.

He woes them and supports them because he needs their votes. Evangelicals helped him win the presidency in 2016, voted heavily for him in his 2020 defeat and are expected to be an important factor in this year's presidential election.

Trump regularly praises conservative Christians in public but aides have said he makes fun of them in private.

Michael Cohen, the former lawyer once known as Trump's fixer, wrote in the tell-all book *Disloyal: A Memoir* that his boss said after a meeting with evangelical leaders:

"Can you believe people believe that bullshit?"

"The cosmic joke was that Trump convinced a vast swathe of working-class white folks in the Midwest that he cared about their well-being," Cohen wrote. "The truth was that he couldn't care less."

The 2020 memoir characterizes Trump as "a cheat, a mobster, a liar, a fraud, a bully, a racist, a predator, a con man."

Yet a lot of evangelicals still love him and see him as their saviour. Which has me feeling ashamed, and I assume, many of my long-gone distant relatives rolling in their graves.

Minden Memories

The School Section (S.S.) Number 6 Schoolhouse was located at Lot 7, Concession 15, Lutterworth. This Schoolhouse is also known as the Hounsell School. / Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

Letters to the editor

Response to 'Mean Spirited Ministry'

To the Editor,

As a long-time reader of the *Times*, I appreciate the opinions and insights of all of your local columnists.

In his recent column, "A Mean-Spirited Ministry," Jim Poling Sr. takes aim at city bureaucrats after receiving a $25 fine related to his hunting licence.

I agree that the fine and how it was communicated sounds bureaucratic. I also agree with Mr. Poling Sr.'s wish that the Frost Centre would be re-opened as an ideal site for a branch of the MNR, where employees would be more in tune with the hunters and fishers they regulate.

I disagree with Mr. Poling Sr.'s characterization of government employees, as well as addiction issues. He writes: "The only hunters the bureaucrats in Toronto get close to are the street gangs outside their offices. The downtown drug wars are the only wildlife they get to see... Looking out the Frost Centre windows they might even see some wildlife, like a deer or a turkey, instead of a stoned human or discarded drug paraphernalia."

I admit that when I first read that it felt.... mean-spirited. Of course big cities deal with addiction and crime issues. But stereotypes are as hurtful to big city folk as they are to people living in a small town or the country.

In terms of city wildlife, a group of volunteer photographers has been capturing the return of migratory birds to Toronto on their page: Beauty of the Don. In the past few weeks these have included the Great Blue Heron, Merganser, red-tailed hawk, Muscovy Duck, Bullock's Oriole, Kildeer and Trumpeter Swan, to name a few. Deer, wild turkeys and coyotes? I have seen these wild creatures both in Minden and Toronto, especially with renaturalization of city river valleys.

In regards to addiction, I see this as a human condition that challenges life in the city as well as small towns and rural areas. Likewise, harms and crime related to drugs and alcohol can impact people living anywhere.

My views above are offered with respect. I enjoy Mr. Poling Sr.'s column and look forward to his take on the natural world, social trends, politics and more.

Ian Kinross,
Minden

Kirsten Monk story addition

To the Editor,

I really enjoyed your article on February 28 about Kirsten Monk's story but I would like to add something that they never talk about.

During the pandemic both Kirsten and Barry made sure that the Minden Community Food Centre was always stocked with masks, gloves and sanitation liquid to make sure all the volunteers were safe when we served the public at the food bank and the community kitchen.

No one was told, but I know that they do other things in our community without anyone knowing about it. I just thought this is a way to show appreciation for all the others things they do besides helping in people's most dire moments.

Thank you.

Marilynne Lesperance,
Minden

How to think about stuff

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

SHEILA HETI is hogging book reviews again with her book called *Alphabetical Diaries*, which is described as sentences – sentences, not paragraphs or entries!! – from her diary presented alphabetically. The reviews – I've not read the book and am not likely to – muse that she is exploring the making of meaning separated from context.

This is an approach not out of keeping with *Motherhood*, published in 2018, in which Heti queries her way through the complex question of whether or not to have a child by posing questions that can be answered yes or no and flipping a coin to guide and extend the enquiry. This strategy prolongs the decision until menopause settles the issue. (Morning-after pills rescue her from accidental pregnancy in the interim -- a necessary element, since her ambivalence about motherhood seems somehow to require that she use withdrawal as birth control. Sort of like flipping a coin.) *Motherhood* won several prizes and was short-listed for the Giller, so clearly it appealed to some people.

Possibly these forays into making sense from fragments are a necessary lesson in a factoid world. Information beats at us like water from a firehose. Figuring out what to take in and what to swallow is exhausting. Feeling confident about what you 'know' is becoming impossible. So, consequently, is checking out through discussion and debate whether what you think you know is actually 'true'. And without certainty, taking action is scary. Choosing between a desperate leap or paralysis? It's a mess.

Heti justified her coin-flipping approach to debating the merits of motherhood by comparing it to the *I Ching*, a venerable Chinese oracle dating back to Confucius. The *I Ching* requires one flip three coins six times to create one of 64 hexagrams, each of which is an image (as Chinese letters are) attached to a philosophical line-by-line parsing of potential meaning. My *I Ching* has an introduction by Carl Jung in which he applies his analytic framework to the *I Ching*'s response to his query about writing the foreword for this translation. He's ambivalent because he knows he's applying one world view – his turn-of-the-20st-century European/Swiss view – on a very different ancient Chinese perspective mediated by an interpreter.

Jung concludes that the Western mind, hewing to science, believes in causality, whereas the Eastern mind (and he says also nature) believes in synchronicity, the coincidence of events in space and time. While the Western mind seeks certainty, the Eastern mind expects contemplation. The *I Ching* gives the questioner a way to think about their question: it does not give direction. It requires agency and self-knowledge, personally owning an understanding that leads to an action.

Why am I nattering on about this arcane stuff? Because I think we need to push back against the idea that certainty is attainable and desirable. I think we need to (re)learn to love the work of making sense of stuff, of thinking our way through the challenge of the moment, choosing the best option of those we see as available to us, and living with the consequences. We know we'll have another chance to get it 'right', whatever that means, because circumstances change. In fact, we expect change as a consequence of choices; that's why we take action, to bring change. And when circumstances change, so do options. Which means we never get to stop making choices. And we never get to know for sure if they're 'right'.

The moral of the story? Learn to love ambiguity. Old-fashioned and humble as that is, I think it is a cure – or at least an antidote – for the scourge of modern anxiety.

Living with ambiguity is called curiosity when children and scholars do it, and it's seen as good. Making a choice among the options seen as available was called character. Expanding and improving the options was called progress. What was the spoiler? The expectation of certainty. The belief that certainty was a good life companion, a till death do us part arrangement. A connection that means I must defend my certainty against yours, rather than let them dance together as the *I Ching* does.

(By the way, *I Ching* translates as *The Book of Changes*.)

Here is a poem from my childhood about the limits of certainty. Heti may see some parallels between this and how she made a decision about motherhood.

A centipede was happy quite
Until a passing toad, in spite, said
"Pray tell, which leg goes after which?"
And worked her mind to such a pitch
She lay distracted in the ditch
Considering which leg came after which.

Hocus-pocus in Haliburton

Two time world champion magician Eric Leclerc points to the camera during his show for March's Razzamataz show at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton on Sunday, Mar. 24. Leclerc invited guests to come up and participate in some of his tricks. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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Local homesteader envisions small scale family farms

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Andrew von Zuben and son Auren stand proudly in their goat's pen. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Andrew von Zuben has taught homesteading for years. In addition to sharing his knowledge, he has been an advisor for Harvest Haliburton, has done talks for Haliburton County's homesteading group and was heavily involved with the Highlands East Environment Committee.

"When we came here, we were interested in camping and fishing and being in the outdoors, but not the homesteading," said Andrew von Zuben. "It's like how we all love the campfire. There's something genetically put into us as we became an agricultural society that we have this propensity for wanting to produce in our place and in our homes."

"I was in a position where I fell into it. I had the interest and it just happened organically and naturally. A lot of the people that we mentor and speak with are stuck in the city and they want out. Ninety five per cent of people who are homesteading had a moment when they realized that they didn't like how they were living. Their lifestyle wasn't fulfilling and it was against their personal nature and they needed to do something different."

Von Zuben wanted to move away from the city and live in a more natural way. He was sick of the hedonistic desires of the rich and wanted to create a life in which he could sustain himself and his family.

"It took me four years before I was able to leave my job and homestead full time," said von Zuben.

We're pretty gentle environmentally speaking," said von Zuben. "You can poke holes into anything. If we wanted to be completely living within nature and not imposing ourselves on the landscape, we can't even grow food. We need the fuel to stay warm in the winter."

"So far, my kids are happy with how we live. My son, he's in charge of the woodlot because we're on a managed forest here. The girls are responsible for the animals and make sure all the animals are cared for. Make sure they have food, water, love, everything they'll need."

"We've tried a bunch of different homesteading things here. Not everything has worked out, but we're continuing to try."

"Homesteading gives you a foundation of food and shelter. From that base, you can become self-employed and generate the income you need."

"That's the attraction to homesteading. You can make something great from something cheap." Von Zuben does not expect his kids to ever want to move to the city. Their family's diet consists primarily of chicken grown and harvested on their property and is supplemented by purchased vegetables, a friend's beef farm, and locally caught fish.

"We eat four chickens a week. Even if we had all the money in the world, I couldn't buy those chickens because no one is making what we produce."

"I lost my wife three years ago to cancer and we're in recovery mode now. We did have gardens, but that was my wife's job and so we don't have a garden right now. The kids aren't super fussy on vegetables so they could eat nothing but chicken and the bread that I make. We eat everything from scratch."

Von Zuben also emphasized the number of eggs his family consumes.

"For me to work as well as make food, I have to make sacrifices. I can't do all gourmet food in the kitchen all the time and still do work out here."

"No allergies, no food sensitivities, and the meat that we eat, a lot of vegans would eat. A lot of that crowd, the reason they don't eat meat, is for ethical reasons. My feed isn't even coming from far away, I know how far it is coming. We eat food that we consider is ethical, we can buy in bulk to be more economical, buy in bulk, so we can store it a long time, and we eat food that is extremely nutritious so it's all organic and it's all from scratch."

"We're focusing on food that they love that can help us grow, so it's high protein, high protein, high protein."

"We make a fair bit of money selling a premium quality chicken and we've been doing it for over 10 years. We've got lots of customers and we always sell out."

"You've gotta know that you're up to that level of commitment and have a bit of a plan," says von Zuben. "Experimenting is expensive."

"When I teach homesteading, it is more about the mindset. Even if you have a little property you can do quite a lot."

"We've always wanted to teach and we have in the past. Now insurance isn't allowing us to do that in the moment," says von Zuben.

In the past, von Zuben and his family have offered a variety of classes on homesteading and small engine repair, but due to societal increase in lawsuits, it has been difficult to get insurance.

"I would like to go back to the events next year. I don't think the kids want to do events necessarily but they're a great way of meeting people. We talk about homesteading and I get paid for it and my overhead is super low and I get to meet people all the time, it's a great business. I'd love to get back to that."

Despite the desire for culinary and agricultural exploration, insurance costs are becoming too steep to run many interesting events, says von Zuben.

"Our leadership, our elders, the people that have the most experience, the most wealth, and the most potential, are the people holding everything back from change currently," says von Zuben.

"My vision is seeing a lot more homesteading, like a small scale diverse family farm. It didn't feed a lot of people, but it fed the family and maybe three other families. That would wrap up the food supply."

"Land not being suitable doesn't mean we can't grow food, we just can't do it in a mechanized, commodified way."

While not being able to grow a field of peppers, homesteaders in Haliburton County can be successful after they learn what can be grown in the soil, says von Zuben.

"This is a multi-generational project. You need to have that vision and people always did. They always had that vision, that long term vision and that's why I get so upset about the leadership community, when it's about now and it's about me," says von Zuben. "No, it's absolutely not. You give yourself up for the next generation so that they can thrive and they do the same thing. If you are selfish, you stop. All the actions we take are on a multi-generational plan. It's for their kids and their kid's kids."

"For my generation, it's a matter of picking back up where we left off two generations ago. Reaccumulating the tools, resources, skills, knowledge, and experience, and trying stuff out and failing and things not working out, trying to see what works so our kids have a head start."

Despite a plethora of eggs and chicken, von Zuben's son Auren says he never gets sick of either.

Xylazine: Another hazard in the street drug supply

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local public health officials are maintaining a focus with the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy on the ongoing drug poisoning crisis.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Health Unit, said monthly meetings continue for the strategy's steering committee.

The HKLN Drug Strategy supports safe environments that promote the health and resiliency of individuals, families, and communities, and reduces the harms and stigma associated with substance use.

The purpose of the drug strategy is to facilitate a collaborative, evidence-based approach to minimize the risks and harms associated with substance use in Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County, including Alderville First Nation.

The drug strategy is a shared effort to mitigate harms related to substance use in a community.

It is one of 40 strategies across Ontario that have been implemented to respond to substance use-related harms and issues faced by people with experience, community members, service providers and health care systems.

Bocking told the public health unit's board Mar. 21 that they've contributed to components of a needs and situational assessments.

"Part of that needs assessment has been a survey among individuals who use drugs," she said. "That survey is now closed."

More than 130 people participated in the needs assessment survey.

"Which is fantastic," she said.

The survey was implemented by public health partners who do outreach work with drug users.

"It wasn't implemented by health unit staff, but we are now supporting with data analysis," Bocking said. "And we'll be doing further work for a summary."

The survey was across the three regions served by the drug strategy.

Bocking said information will be compiled and ready to share by this summer.

"The intent is that we are able to inform our response activities," she said. "Especially by those individuals that are significantly impacted by the use of substances."

Surveillance efforts continue and public health officials will issue alerts should there be an increase in the number of overdoses presenting at emergency departments or during ambulance and police calls.

There's also a pilot project in the works to distribute test strips for fentanyl and xylazine.

According to the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, xylazine is a non-opioid pain reliever developed as a sedative and muscle relaxant for animals. It is being found as an additive to other drugs.

In combination with other sedatives like fentanyl, benzodiazepines, or alcohol, xylazine can increase the risk of overdose and death.

"Test strips individuals can use to check their drugs to see if fentanyl is present or if xylazine is present," said Bocking. "Test strips are a useful tool, but they don't indicate necessarily that the drug supply is safe."

It only indicates if one of those two substances are present.

"What we're seeing and learning from other places in Ontario, like Toronto, is that there are more and more other substances that are in the drug supply that are new and that are very, very potent, and that are leading to deaths," she said.

"And those substances are not detected by drug strips."

Bocking explained to the board that xylazine creates similar effects as fentanyl in that it leads to respiratory depression.

It also leads to another possible similar outcome.

"People might stop breathing," she said. "When people stop breathing, their heart stops. In a significant overdose it can lead to death."

Xylazine can't be reversed by naloxone because it isn't an opioid.

Fentanyl is certainly still a huge issue, Bocking said.

"But they're introducing more synthetic types of fentanyl that are stronger," she said.

Its strength is to the point where health professionals have had to administer as many as four or five hits of naloxone to counter the drugs' effects, she said.

"So we're recommending people carry multiple kits of naloxone," she said. "Just in case of the response."

Public health officials are concerned that they have seen drugs in the street supply mixed with both opiates and sedatives.

Xylazine was the substance found in the supply that led to 23 overdoses in less than two days in Belleville in early February. That city declared a state of emergency because of so many overdoses in a short time frame.

> "You'll have multiple people that will overdose at the same time
>
> **— DR. NATALIE BOCKING, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

The new reality for public health officials and first responders is the fallout caused by a batch of street drugs that has the synthetic fentanyl or xylazine that's available to many people.

"Then you'll have multiple people that will overdose at the same time," Bocking said. "This is a different type of emergency preparedness."

The local health unit has taken to considering how to best respond to a situation similar to what happened in Belleville, she said.

While public health professionals aren't the ones to respond to an emergency situation, they're involved in the surveillance and coordination of community-wide response.

Preventative measures are just as important as harm reduction measures to keep people safe. It's a multi-pillared approach to a complex problem, she said.

"I think a lot of ongoing work will be needed with this," Bocking said. "The key is that the drug supply is continuing to be contaminated with other substances."

Community events sponsored by

Lisa Mercer

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On Death and Dying
When: Mar. 27, 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church. 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for a presentation, On Death and Dying, with Beth Archibald, Palliative Care Specialist at HHHS. Topics will include advance care directives, end of life decisions, and palliative care. Admission is free.

Wilberforce Maple Syrup Festival
When: Mar. 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Centre, 2249 Loop Rd
Join us for the Wilberforce Maple Syrup Festival and Bazaar on Saturday March 30th! Free admission. Breakfast available with all you can eat pancakes and sausages- children $4, Adults $8. Also enjoy the bazaar and craft tables, and the Easter Bunny!

Horticultural Trivia
When: Tuesday, April 2, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside
Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society where our guest speaker M.J Pilgrim will be reviewing 'Horticultural Trivia'. This will be followed by the monthly society meeting. The associated Youth Garden Club will follow the meeting, running from 4 to 5 p.m. The Youth Garden Club is for children in Gr. 2 or higher that want to explore their interest in all things that grow.

A Murder Is Announced
When: April 3-6, various times
Where: Northern Lights Pavilion, 5358 Haliburton County Rd 21
Takes place Apr. 3, 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m.at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton, and Apr. 6 at 2 p.m. Presented by Highlands Little Theatre. Tickets available at Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton. Friends please accept this as the only intimation.

Pancake Breakfast
When: Apr. 6, 8 a.m. to 12 noon
Where: Highland Grove Community Centre
Come join us for a pancake breakfast. Includes pancakes, sausages, bacon, toast, eggs, coffee, and local maple syrup. $12 per adult, $8 per child, and children younger than five are free. Proceeds will benefit St John Vianney and mission churches.

Repair Cafe
When: Apr. 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: SIRCH Bistro, 49 Maple Ave. Haliburton
Bring your broken items to the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery and our volunteers will fix them for you. Don't forget to bring the kids along to enjoy the Tinker Table. Small appliances, ceramics, toys, furniture, jewellery, textiles, computers, wooden furniture, bicycles and more. Repair Café will take place the first Sunday of every month until December. For more info call 705-457-1742. Contact Steve Dewey at sdewey@algonquinhighlands.ca

Chipping-Cleghorn
Gazette

Special April Edition No. 98

A Murder is Announced

Inside:

Comedy or Mystery?:
Local Amateur Theatre Troupe brings Christie Play to the Stage. See page 3

Vicar's Garden Party Delightful Success:
Despite torrential rain and gale-force winds, see page 14

Scouts Lost During Weekend Orientation Course:
Five plus leader still missing, See page ??

Neighbour Irate Over Quacking Ducks:
'It is driving me quackers', claims front porch senior. See page 20

Rare Devon Violets Stolen From Vicarage:
Authorities search for woman with knitting bag. See page 21

Police Investigate Strange Events at Little Paddocks:
Neighbours claim home haunted or cursed. See page 30

Local Theatre Troupe Blown Away At Garden Fete:
Unprecedented exit stampede heralds finale. See page pi

This is a special program insert for Highlands Little Theatre

The Usual Suspects

The Usual Suspects: from left, front row; Norma Bingham, Ruth Carter, John Jackson, Back row; Victoria Bingham, Scotty Duggan, Jordan Kovacs, Kate Butler, Sean Pennylegion, Rita Jackson, Heather Norris, Karen Frybort. Missing (an APB has been issued) Bob Stiles.

The Tradition of Award winning Journalism continues ....

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Local News • Arts • Sports • Entertainment

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Welcome to Haliburton County, Home & Cottage, Summer Guide, Winter Guide and County Life, available free of charge at Dealer locations in Haliburton County.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY
haliburtonecho.ca

The Times MINDEN, ONTARIO
mindentimes.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missing dog,
Beagle, much loved family pet. Very friendly. Gone for seven days, blind in one eye, deaf, three legs. Answers to the name of Lucky.

Young woman,
said to be excitingly beautiful, seeks companionship with mature man. Love. Marriage. Rolls-Royce owners only.

Obituary
We regret to announce the passing last Thursday, of Ebenezer George Periwinkle, surrounded by his friend. A man of strong beliefs and convictions whose motto in life was "pinch every penny and the dollars will look after themselves". A firm believer in the power of positive thinking, he never paid a cent in taxes and so, inevitably, believed he would live forever. Such is the folly of silly aphorisms.

Local Theatre Troupe
seeks actors of all genders for upcoming musical production. Must have dance training,comfortable on a high wire and with fire eating. Good sense of balance and eclectic appetite of value. Musical experience not essential. Also, dramatic director required. Must be able to leave well enough alone, polish gems, have first aid and fire extinguisher training. Sorry, no novices need apply. Also looking for actors with nice furniture we could borrow for the stage.

Judith: Don't despair.
Time heals all wounds, especially those inflicted by that cad. I really don't know why you put up with him for so long. You should have walked months ago, but oh no, you wouldn't listen to me, and now here you are with nothing to show for your troubles but a pile of empty shoes, shoes that are filled with the copious sorrows that was your life. Hopethis helps. Call if you need any more bucking up. JB

A Murder is Announced
and will take place on Friday the thirteenth, at Little Paddocks at 6:30 p.m. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

HSF Live Theatre! 2024
Highlands Summer Festival

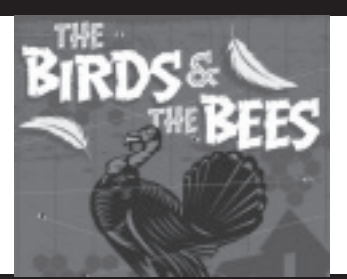
July 2nd to July 11th

July 15th to July 23rd

The Miracle Worker
by William Gibson

July 24th to July 26th

July 28th to August 2nd



August 4th to August 8th

705-457-9933 or 855-457-9933

Agatha Christie:

Agatha Christie is widely considered to be the Queen of the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. Born in Torquay, England in 1890, the knowledge she gained working in a dispensary during WWI inspired her to pen her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which introduced one of her most famous sleuths, Hercule Poirot, to the world. In 1930, *The Murder at the Vicarage* brought Miss Jane Marple to life. Christie was a prolific writer, penning eighty crime novels and collections of short stories, as well as nineteen plays. Her books have sold over two billion copies worldwide, and she is often said to have been only outsold by the Bible and the works of William Shakespeare.

Christie's personal life was not without mystery. In 1926, when she was already a well-known author, she disappeared for eleven days. Her disappearance resulted in international headlines which captured the imaginations of readers. More than 1000 police officers and 15000 volunteers joined the search before she was eventually located at the Swan Hydropathic Hotel in Yorkshire, suffering from a loss of memory as to how she had come to be there. Speculation about the 'true story' of her disappearance has continued right up to the present day.

An avid traveller, Christie explored many parts of the globe, often in the company of her second husband, archaeologist, Max Mallowan. Her travels clearly influenced her writing, as such titles as Murder on the *Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile* can attest. (During her travels, she even became an accomplished surfer, at a time when few in Britain had even heard of the sport!) However, Christie found equal interest in the seemingly quiet corners of the English countryside and that's where we invite you to now join us - in the village of Chipping Cleghorn. We hope you enjoy unraveling the mystery of *A Murder Is Announced*!

A MURDER Is Announced

Based on a novel by **Agatha Christie**
Adapted for the stage by **Leslie Darbon**
Directed by **Jack Brezina**
Produced for Highlands Little Theatre by **Kate Butler**
Featuring the **Usual Suspects**

Time:
A Murder is Announced
takes place in the charming English Villlage of Chipping-Cleghorn in the late 1940s.

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

The Cast

(In order of appearance)

Letitia Blacklock	RITA JACKSON
Julia Simmons	KATE BUTLER
Dora Bunner	VICTORIA BINGHAM
Patrick Simmons	JORDAN KOVACS
Mitzi	KAREN FRYBORT
Miss Marple	RUTH CARTER
Phillipa Haymes	HEATHER NORRIS
Mrs. Swettenham	NORMA BINGHAM
Edmund Swettenham	SCOTT DUGGAN
Rudi Scherz	SEAN PENNYLEGION
Inspector Craddock	JOHN JACKSON
Sergeant Mellors	BOB STILES

Creative Team

Director	JACK BREZINA
Producer	KATE BUTLER
Stage Manager	AMY BROHM
Lighting	CURTIS EASTMURE
Crew	PAUL VORVIS
Set Painting	SUE VORVIS, BETTY MILLS
Set Builders, Movers	DAVID MILLS, NORRIS TURNER, & TOM FULLERTON
Costumes	AMY BROHM, SUE VORVIS, KAREN SIRIANNI, & GILL STEPHENS
Props	AMY BROHM, CAST & HSF

Thanks To:

Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton; Highlands Summer Festival, Parker Pad & Printing, Canoe FM. The Times and the Echo, The Highlander, Jim Blake. Highlands Little Theatre is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

What are you hiding?

Director's Notes

It is only human nature to keep some secrets to ourselves. Minor or surprisingly consequential, we all have closets in which we hide a few personal skeletons we would prefer to not share with the world.

In *A Murder Is Announced*, Agatha Christie has woven a tale in which just about every character is hiding something….a skeleton from their past or one recently created, each seems to be hiding something that he or she would prefer the rest of their world not know about. Such is the stew of plots and red herrings the author has strung together in this murder mystery, suitably infused with levity, feints and twists despite its serious story line.

Like any Christie novel, the characters do their best to keep their secrets under wraps and the audience guessing as to who-dun-it. We are delighted you have chosen to join us for this intriguing story and we invite you to play along. You will have received a "ballot" with your program on which you can indicate which character, you think, is committing murder most foul. Complete the form and drop it into the box in the lobby during the intermission. We'll separate the correct answers and before you leave the theatre one lucky entry will be drawn from the hat and that patron will receive a special prize.

It has been my pleasure to work with this dedicated and talented cast and crew as they unwrapped their characters to discover what mysteries are hidden their closets. Our hope is that you will be entertained and amused as the mystery unravels and all is revealed.

Jack Brezina,
Director

PS: When you encourage your friends and acquaintances to join us at subsequent performances, and we hope you do, please keep the solution of the mystery to yourself so as to not spoil their fun.

Spreading smiles and raising funds:

The joyful journey of Minden Rotary's celebrity clowns

In this charming town of Minden Hills, a group of individuals has found a unique way to combine philanthropy with laughter, all while donning supplied costumes and spreading joy to our community. Meet the Minden Rotary's Celebrity Clowns - a dedicated army of local residents and friends who are not only here to entertain but also to make a difference through their fundraising efforts. These fun loving friends of Minden Rotary, whether prepared to dress in costume or not, make donations to support the needs of our community and its nonprofits

Should you be willing to actually be a Celebrity Clown, please make yourself known to a Minden Rotarian. The role of a Celebrity Clown goes beyond just putting on a costume and walking through a crowd. It's about creating magical moments, bringing smiles to faces, and connecting with people in a way that transcends words, often with just the presentation of a little red nose. Whether it's at Canada Day celebrations, Minden Pride, Rotary Fest, or the annual Santa Claus parades, these enthusiastic individuals are a beloved fixture at community events, brightening the day of all who encounter them. Could you be one of these incognito Celebrity Clowns?

But what truly sets the Minden Rotary Celebrity Clowns apart is their commitment to giving back to the community. Through their lighthearted antics and engaging interactions, they raise crucial funds that support local initiatives and contribute to the impactful work of the Minden Rotary. Every dollar collected by these dedicated clowns goes towards making a positive difference in the lives of those in need and enriching our vibrant community.

Celebrity Clowns offer an exciting and engaging opportunity to raise funds for Minden Rotary. /Photo submitted

For those who have had the privilege of donning the iconic red nose and stepping into the role of a Celebrity Clown, the experience is nothing short of magical. From the thrill of on the spot anonymity to the joy of seeing smiles light up faces, being a Celebrity Clown is a one-of-a-kind adventure that leaves a lasting impact on both the participants and the community at large.

But the true beauty of being a celebrity clown lies not just in the laughter and fun, but in the sense of fulfillment that comes from knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of others. Have a conversation with our 2023 Celebrity Clowns Brent Devolin, Sally Moore, Jan Clarke, Gina Deighton, Deanna Garbutt, Bob Baynton-Smith, Dave Woodcroft or Gary Stoner or any other community member who has taken on the role. Each individual brings their own special touch to the experience, creating moments of connection and joy that resonate far beyond the event itself. Step into our Rotary supplied costume for yourself.

So, if you've ever felt the call to spread happiness, make a difference, and have a blast while doing it, consider joining the ranks of the Minden Rotary Celebrity Clowns for 2024. Contact Sally Moore (705 286 4922) today to express your interest and become part of this incredible team of community ambassadors for 2024.

To simply support the happiness and efforts of Minden Rotary, please go to MindenRotary.ca and donate mentioning support for the Celebrity Clowns. We are making a real difference, one smile at a time.

Submitted

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THIS APRIL...

One of these characters will commit MURDER

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

A Murder Mystery/Comedy
Based on a novel by **Agatha Christie**
Adapted for the stage by Leslie Darbon
Directed by Jack Brezina with Stage Manager Amy Brohm
Produced for Highlands Little Theatre by Kate Butler

Featuring the Usual Suspects as pictured above: Rita Jackson, Victoria Bingham, John Jackson, Heather Norris, Ruth Carter, Bob Stiles, Karen Frybort, Sean Pennylegion, Jordan Kovacs, Kate Butler, Scott Duggan & Norma Bingham.

APRIL 3, 4 & 5 at 7:30 p.m. & **APRIL 6** at 2 p.m.
At the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion
(at the high school in Haliburton)

TICKETS: $25
Now on Sale at Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton
& at the theatre on performance days

"A Murder Is Announced" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Farewell to graduates

The Haliburton County Huskies' graduating players stand with their jerseys during their end of year awards banquet held at Mulligans in Minden. Pictured from left, Jack Staniland, Matt Milic, Aidan Yarde, Ian Phillips, Lucas Stevenson, Patrcik Saini, and Lucas Marshall. /Photos submitted

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9								
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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 18

A close up shot of a pine marten. /Photo submitted by Tammy Nash

Empowering success in Ontario's Skilled Trades

The Journey of Haseebullah Amani

Ontario's skilled trades industry offers a pathway to success for individuals from a wide range of backgrounds but can come with challenges if navigated unsupported. This is exemplified through Haseebullah Amani's story, an inspiring testament to resilience, determination, and the power of finding the right support network.

Haseebullah's journey led him from working in fast-food establishments after moving to Canada to achieving success as an electrical apprentice in Ontario's thriving skilled trades sector. His experiences highlight both the challenges and the rewards of navigating the skilled trades landscape, underscoring the crucial role of support systems like Support Ontario Youth (SOY) in facilitating success. We sat down with Haseebullah to ask him about his experiences. To watch the full interview, you can view it on our YouTube channel.

What does the life of an aspiring electrical apprentice look like?

First of all, it's hard to find a job to start at the beginning. Any company you go to for a job asks for experience. How am I going to get experience? That's the difficult part for apprentices – just finding a job. Everyone wants to know if you have Canadian experience. When you start working, they offer you very low pay and ask you to do the hard jobs. You have to survive the first bit. Pay for your gas, and pay for your tools, because most places don't provide you with tools. You have to survive until you get to the level where you are bringing value to the company.

What are some challenges that you currently face?

The big challenge that I am facing is knowledge. Lack of knowledge.

What are some of the benefits of working in the skilled trades compared to other career options?

The greatest benefit is that while you are working, you are getting paid; you earn money. If you go somewhere for work, you are focusing like in school, learning, but you are getting paid. Someone is there for you, and they show you the work and how to do it. If you make a mistake, that's okay. They are going to teach you more and more.

What are some skills or qualities that are important for success in the skilled trades, and how have you developed these skills during your apprenticeship?

The first thing is you have to be interested in what you are doing. You have to be smart. Most skilled trades aren't easy. They can be dangerous. You have to be smart to understand. Obviously, experience helps too.

How has Support Ontario Youth helped you during your apprenticeship?

When I got my job, I was constantly asking my boss "When are you going to register me?". I set an alarm each week to call my boss and ask him. He said he had to find someone to register me to take those responsibilities. "I can't do all of it. I can sign your papers", he said. Then I heard the name Support Ontario Youth and told my boss they can register me. They can take the responsibilities. I can talk with them. I can forward the email, follow my hours. All you have to do is sign my contract. When I got registered, everything happened through SOY and they helped me a lot. I heard about SOY at the job site from my colleagues.

How do you feel about classroom learning and on-the-job training?

It's been three years that I have been working as an electrician. For the first two years, I was following orders and didn't really know what I was doing. I didn't know the reason behind what I was doing, but I was doing it correctly. When I got my offer from the government through SOY to go to school, the instructor in school explained everything and those two parts came together, and it completed my knowledge. I understood this is the reason why we are doing that. At the job site, you are learning how to do the job. You go to school, and you learn the reason why you are doing it.

Some people perceive skilled trades as physically demanding or male dominated. How do you view diversity and inclusion in the skilled trades, and what can be done to encourage more individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in this field?

The spool of wire I work with is about 20 lbs. Anyone can lift that. At my job, my boss is always telling me "If you aren't comfortable, ask for help". I have a female co-worker who works with us. She is great. Whatever I lift, she can lift. You don't need any specific physical abilities for this trade.

As an apprentice, how have your mentors influenced your growth and development, and what advice or lessons have you gained from them?

I don't have any electrical background from back home, so I learned here. I have made a lot of mistakes and my journeyman, my foreman, and my boss, they teach me on the job site. Not getting mad, they just show me how to do the job. Obviously, I make mistakes, but they explain and show me how to do it right.

Lastly, if you were to give advice to someone considering a career in the skilled trades, what would you share?

I would say, first of all, look at yourself. What are you interested in? Because that's going to be your job that you are doing for the rest of your life. Whatever field you work in, work safe, and try to learn something new. I'm not saying anybody is complete, but everybody can learn something new every day.

This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

For more information about Support Ontario Youth and our initiatives, please visit our website at www.supportontarioyouth.ca.

About SOY: Support Ontario Youth is a registered charity working closely with apprentices, employers, and industry stakeholders to identify gaps in apprenticeship learning and training and help those directly involved by supporting, mentoring, and guiding their efforts to help streamline and modernize the trade pathways.

Submitted

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Wild night

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association hosted their annual sold-out Wild Game Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 23 the Haliburton Legion, giving attendees a chance to taste wild game and raise money for HHOA programs. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hyland Ice Supply NOW Accepting Applications for 2024 Summer Season for Drivers Helpers, **(students)** Production Staff and Drivers (D, DZ, G) Please contact us via e-mail: **info@hylandice.com** or by telephone: **705-448-2973** Attention Carol

Local children's summer camp is accepting applications for **cleaning and maintenance positions**. Full and seasonal opportunities available. Wide variety of duties including camp start-up and close down. Salaries based on experience. Submit resume to, **rob@campnbb.com** or leave a message at **705-754-2374** for more information.

SIRCH community services

Join our SIRCH Team!

We have the following temporary & permanent positions available

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- Marketing Manager
- Human Resources

Contact us for details
info@sirch.on.ca 705-457-1742

Private campground in the Minden/ Haliburton area requires a reliable **SUMMER MAINTENANCE PERSON** from May 11 to October 13, 2024. $20/hour. Duties Include: general maintenance; cleaning park grounds, rec hall, washrooms; operating small grass cutting equipment; ability to lift over 40 lbs; assisting with various small projects as assigned. Approximately 5 hours a day. Morning start time. Willing to work weekends. Must possess a valid "G" driver's license. A good driving record is required. Please submit your resume to **neca.bod@gmail.com**

Abbey Retreat Centre

JOIN OUR TEAM
Fund Development Coordinator

Abbey Retreat Centre creates healing spaces and community for people affected by cancer.

Are you a person who:
- Has experience and success in fundraising through major gifts, annual giving, grant writing and special events?
- Enjoys building relationships and working in a collaborative environment?
- Enjoys public speaking, event planning and building community?
- Is passionate about innovative cancer programming and excited to help build a supportive and committed donor community?

A full job description can be found at: https://abbeyretreatcentre.ca/work-with-us/

Interested indivduals are invited to email a cover letter and resume to:
Barb Smith-Morrison, Executive Director
barb@abbeyretreatcentre.ca
by April 12, 2024

TIMBERLANE SINCE 1958

Camp Timberlane is a co-ed residential summer camp for campers aged 6 – 16. For more information about the camp, visit us at **www.Camptimberlane.ca**

Grounds Keeping/Maintenance - Full Time, Temporary, Contract
Two positions available are available for Maintenance and Grounds Keeping.
Responsibilities include: keeping the grounds clean and clear of garbage and waste, grass cutting and leaf blowing, landscape maintenance, empty garbage receptacle, operation of front loader, painting, delivering wood for firepits. Sundry duties as assigned. Manual labour or construction experience will be an asset

Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract
Two positions available for Housekeeping and Laundry.
Responsibilities include: cleaning of all buildings, accommodations, washrooms, shower facilities and common areas throughout the camp, including the turnover of living space throughout camp and overall upkeep of camp facilities. Cleaning and light maintenance duties include, but not limited to sweeping, mopping, cleaning, painting and replenishing supplies needed for showers and washrooms.

Expected Start date: April 1, 2024
Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment. Salary Range: Both Housekeeping/Laundry and Maintenance/Grounds keeping: $17.50 - $19.50 per hour based on experience. **Submit resume by email to Jay@camptimberlane.ca**

Minden Times Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday

400 EMPLOYMENT

Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks

Maintenance Assistant
SEASONAL Full Time
(April-Oct) $22.00/hr

Candidates should have experience in light maintenance/cleaning duties. Full G license is a must. Competence and confidence in trailer transportation. Knowledge and ability to service small engines, boats, and trucks is a must. Manual labour (lifting, garbage removal) is a daily required task. Problem solving and independence are key traits of this role. Familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, carry out light maintenance tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, make adjustments and minor repairs. Up to 40 hour work week Spring and Fall (5 days Monday – Friday, Occasional Weekends) Up to 40 hour work week Summer (5 days, Scheduled Weekends).
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

Cleaning Services
seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL
(Mid April – Mid Oct) $20.00/hr

We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets. Up to 40 hour work week Spring and Fall (5 days Monday – Friday, Occasional Weekends) Up to 40 hour work week Summer (5 days, Scheduled Weekends). Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept) NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at ***matt@onondagacamp.com***. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.

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Tender Call for Grounds Keeping Contract

Canada Post is inviting tenders for Grounds Keeping at the Minden Post Office. Specifications may be picked up at the Post Office located at 6 Water Street. Quotes must be received by April 12, 2024 by 5:00 pm

Receive the *Minden Times* in your mailbox every week and SAVE off the newsstand price. Call Debbie at 705-286-1288 to subscribe.

540 COMING EVENTS

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A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED and will take place April 3, 4 & 5 7:30 p.m.at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton, and April 6 at 2 p.m. presented by Highlands Little Theatre. Tickets available at Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton. Friends please accept this as the only intimation.

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The family of Jeffrey (Jeff) Bain would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the love and kindness to us during this difficult time of Jeff's passing. We are so thankful for all the prayers, food, visits, phone calls, texts, cards, donations in memory of Jeff and for all the support our family has received and are still receiving. Thank you to our Heavenly Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for the mercy, grace, comfort and peace that no words can express. Underneath are God's Everlasting arms carrying us forward each day. Deuteronomy 33:27

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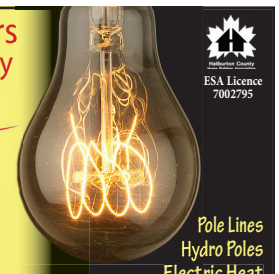

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Water tower $1 M over budget

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Minden Hills's water tower project is going to cost $1 million more than expected.

That was the news delivered to councillors last week by Bruce Bonner of D.M. Wills Associates Limited, the Peterborough-based engineering firm in charge of the project.

As part of its mandate, the firm is also in charge of overseeing construction tenders for the project and it's these tenders that have taken the estimated total cost of the project from $2.4 million to approximately $3.4 million.

"The tender price was a shock to us and we were frankly quite disappointed in the results," Bonner told councillors at their

see COUNCILLORS *page 18*

Chad Ingram/TIMES

When I grow up ...

The Minden Skating Club's annual carnival focused on future professions. This group wants to be hair stylists. See page 14.

Still no decisions on Rail Trail governance

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Spring is here and another season of recreation on Haliburton County's trails is about to begin.

However, the Haliburton County Rail Trail, the 33-kilometre corridor between Haliburton and Kinmount that has caused a rift between motorized and non-motorized users in the past, remains without an official committee to govern its usage.

The former Rail Trail committee, which consisted of representatives of various user groups and members of county council, was disbanded last year after it was agreed that a lack of cooperation had rendered the committee essentially dysfunctional.

The county did accept verbal and written submissions from the public about what a new management committee for the Rail Trail could look like, but little action has been taken toward establishing a new committee.

"We're no further ahead than we were four months ago," Minden Hills reeve and chair of the county's economic development committee, Jim McMahon, said earlier this week.

The Rail Trail has been assigned to the economic development committee until a

see TRAILS *page 15*

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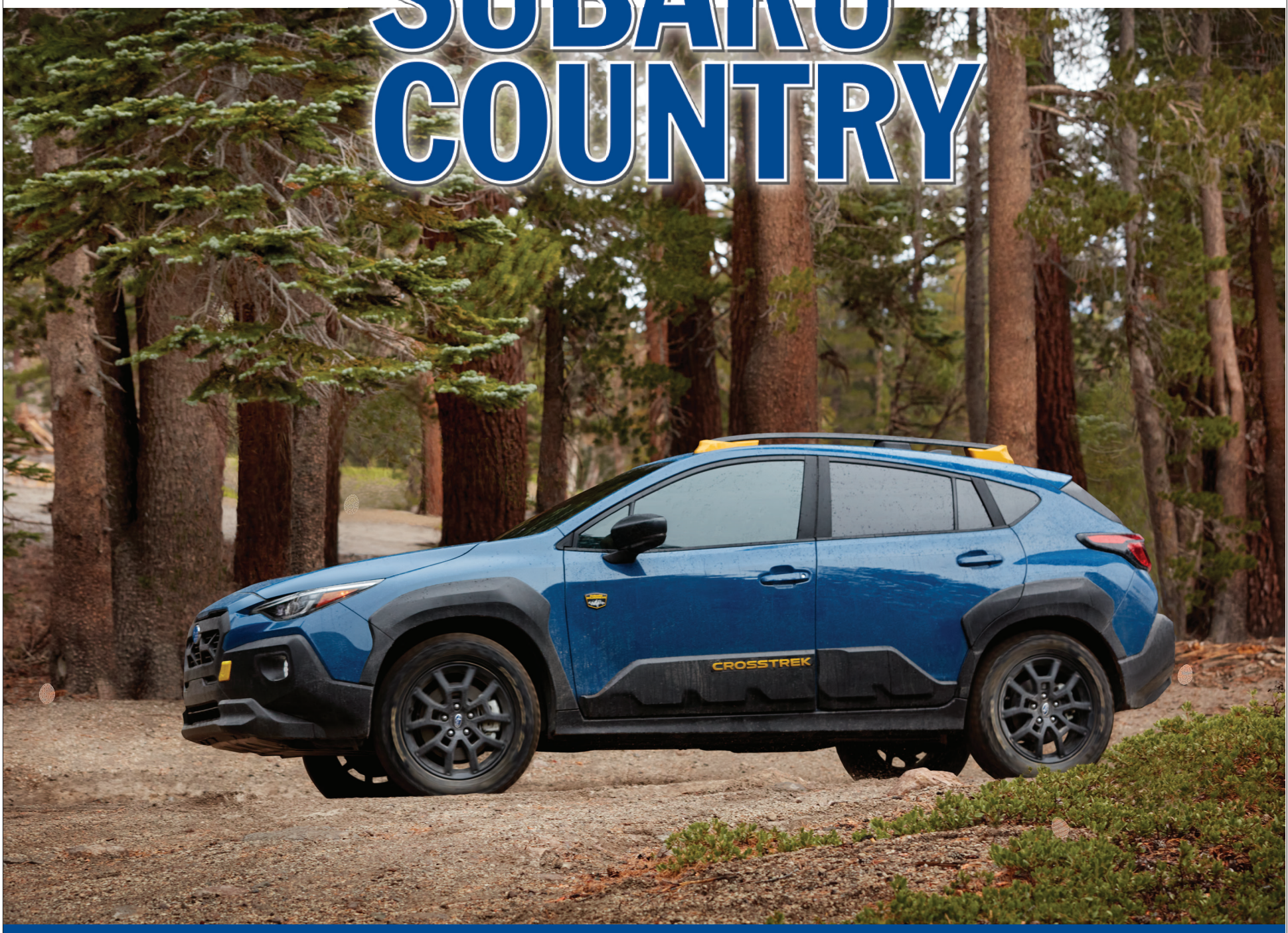

Wishing you a

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